

**In the claims:**

The claims standing for examination are reproduced below.

1-29. (Canceled)

30. (New) A composite panel for use in contact with flesh of an animal, comprising:  
phase change material (PCM) joined to fibers in the composite panel; and  
fibers comprising rare earth elements, the elements optically responsive to both  
wavelengths of ambient light and energy produced by an animal's body, to interact with  
the animal in a manner to increase oxygenated blood flow through cell structure of the  
flesh;

wherein the composite panel is structured to be conformal to the shape of the  
animal where the panel is intended for use, and is structured to wick moisture from the  
animals body through the panel, and to allow air flow through the panel to the animal's  
body.

31. (New) The composite panel of claim 30 wherein the PCM material is chosen to be a  
material for which the phase-change temperature is about ninety-five degrees Fahrenheit.

32. (New) The composite panel of claim 30 joined to a shock-absorbing layer.

33. (New) The composite panel of claim 32 wherein the shock-absorbing material is one  
of a visco-elastic or open-celled material, in at least 7-pound weight.